

Remarks

Claim 1 has been canceled, claims 13-29 and 31 have been amended, and new claims 49 and 50 have been added. Review and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the remarks below are respectfully requested.

Claim 29 has been amended to address the objection thereto.

Claims 1, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19-29, 31 and 48 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. Publication No. 2003/0034887 to Crabtree. The remaining independent claims (claims 13 and 31), as amended, require that the locating device (the parent unit) detects the signature of the received signal and compare the received signature with the signature stored in its memory. This feature does not appear to be disclosed in the Crabtree reference.

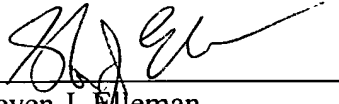
According to the Crabtree reference, the locator device transmits a coded signal (the code corresponding to the code associated with a particular transceiver device, i.e. child unit) and only the correct transceiver device will respond. Accordingly, the locator device of the Crabtree reference does not appear to check the coding information of the signal returned by the transceiver device (since it is assumed that only the correct transceiver device (child unit) will respond). There does not appear to be any incentive to modify the technique disclosed in the Crabtree reference to that of the claimed invention. Detecting and comparing the signature of the received signal with stored signatures, as specified in claims 13 and 31, should make the operation more reliable, i.e. it will be more certain that the parent unit can allocate the response from a child unit to the correct child unit.

Thus it is submitted that the subject matter of claims 13 and 31 is not shown in the Crabtree references. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in a condition for allowance and a formal notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required, including the fee for an extension of time, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 20-0809. The applicant(s) hereby authorizes the Commissioner under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3) to treat any paper that is filed in this application which requires an extension of time as incorporating a request for such an extension.

Serial No. 10 /524,597
Attorney Docket No. 534334-058
Amendment

Respectfully submitted:

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